

Rhode Island Public Transit Authority

Joint Pension Board

Minutes of the February 28, 2011 Meeting

Joint Pension Board Members Present: John Rupp, Chairperson; Stephen Farrell, Edward Field; Rochelle Lee; Kevin Millea; and Christine Johnston. William Kennedy was also present acting as a substitute for late members.

Also Present: Charles Odingbe, Chief Executive Officer; Susan DeBlasio Leach (Outside Counsel); Maureen Neira; Mark Therrien; Victor Santos; Ellen Mandly and members of the RIPTA staff and the general public.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of Minutes of January 24, 2011 Monthly Meeting

Mr. Rupp called the meeting to order and asked if the JPB members had an opportunity to review the minutes of the January 24, 2011 meeting, and the members indicated that they had.

A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Farrell; seconded by Ms. Johnston and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 2: Convene as Pension Benefit Sub-Committee

o Consideration of Benefits' Requests

o JPB Action: Alfred Moscola Active Employee – Age 65

Request for Late Pension effective 2/1/11 - \$2,179.68

Mr. Santos discussed the details of the pension request by Mr. Moscola saying he was employed with the Authority 10 years and 8 months and during his employment he was included in the salaried pension plan. Following this Mr. Millea moved that Mr. Moscola's pension request be approved as presented. Mr. Farrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the approval of Mr. Moscola's pension Stephen Farrell asked if Mr. Moscola was present and determined he was not. Mr. Farrell then spoke passionately and at length regarding Mr. Moscola's contributions to RIPTA and his dedication as General Manager during his ten plus years with the Authority. Among his complimentary remarks Mr. Farrell noted that in his opinion Mr. Moscola had implemented what he considered to be the best preventive maintenance on the east coast, oversaw the construction of both the Chafee and paratransit buildings – two state of the art and much needed facilities, and the implementation of a cooperative program with RIDOT for the repair of a portion of their fleet. Mr. Farrell then spoke appreciatively of the working relationship he had with Mr. Moscola while negotiating various union contracts and arbitrations

and also commended him on his work with LILUNA. Mr. Farrell finished by saying he wished to tip his hat to General Manager Moscola and wished CEO Charles Odingbe luck in building a similar legacy.

Bill Kennedy also spoke about Mr. Moscola calling him a dedicated and loyal employee. He said the General Manager had worked hard to move RIPTA steadily ahead and he will miss him.

Edward Field asked for a round of applause for Mr. Moscola and applause ensued.

o JPB Action: Henry S. Kinch – Active Employee – Age 69

Request for Late Pension effective 3/1/2011 - \$3,960.97

Mr. Santos discussed the details of the pension request by Mr. Kinch saying he was employed with the Authority 22 years and 10 months and during his employment he was included in the salaried pension plan. Following this Mr. Millea moved that Mr. Kinch's pension request be approved as presented. Mr. Farrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the approval of Mr. Kinch's pension Mr. Farrell asked if Mr. Kinch was present and hearing he was not he went on to thank Mr. Kinch for his more than 22 years of service to the Authority. He then highlighted the many accomplishments of Mr. Kinch's career first

noting his tenure as Mayor of the City of Pawtucket and then the many departments he contributed to and lead during his years at RIPTA culminating with his appointment and service as the Deputy General Manager of the Authority.

Bill Kennedy also gave accolades to Mr. Kinch saying he has known him for over 41 years since his days at Gorham Manufacturing and he has great respect for him and his abilities and he is grateful for his many contributions to RIPTA. He said he'll be greatly missed.

Mr. Kinch then received a round of lively applause.

Mr. Rupp spoke next about Messrs Moscola and Kinch saying Mr. Moscola navigated the Authority through difficult financial times when fuel prices rose sharply causing deficits he worked hard to deal with. He said Mr. Kinch also deserved a lot of credit for his leadership and the valuable assistance he gave the General Manager. He said they were dedicated employees putting RIPTA's interest's head of their own.

o JPB Action: William J. Barbieri – Former Employee – Age 52

Request for Early Pension effective 3/1/2011 - \$543.93

Next Mr. Santos discussed the details of the pension request by William Barbieri saying he was employed with the Authority 29 years and 6 months and during his employment he was included in the

salaries pension plan. Following this Mr. Farrell moved that Mr. Barbieri's pension request be approved as presented. Ms. Johnston seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

- **Consideration of Benefits' Requests - Division 618A**

- o **JPB Action: Vincent Tramontano – Active Employee – Age 55**
Request for Disability Pension effective 3/1/2011 - \$3,299.99

Mr. Santos discussed the details of the pension request by Mr. Tramontano saying he was employed with the Authority 35 years and 8 months and during his employment he was included in the both the hourly and salaries pension plans. Following this Mr. Farrell moved that Mr. Tramontano's pension request be approved as presented. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the vote the on pension Mr. Farrell spoke about Mr. Tramontano noting his many years of service and said they had worked together many of those years. He said Mr. Tramontano always worked very hard to keep service on the street and he wished him all the best in his retirement. Following these remarks Mr. Tramontano received a round of applause.

Agenda Item 4: Adjournment

Prior to adjournment Mr. Farrell raised concerns about the implementation of retroactivity stemming from the December 10th interest arbitration award. He said he had raised these concerns with management and if the issue is not resolved by the next meeting of the Joint Pension Board then he wants the matter put on the agenda for discussion at the March meeting.

Mr. Rupp noted Mr. Farrell's concerns and asked that staff work with Mr. Farrell on the implementation issue.

Mr. Rupp asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Farrell motioned to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M. Mandly

Recording Secretary